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21M.732 Beginning Costume Design and Construction
Fall 2008

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Research

- A. Primary research – not reinterpreted by another
 - a. Actual clothing
 - b. Photos from the period
 - i. from books
 - ii. from magazines – but keep in mind style vs. life
 - iii. albums – most realistic for everyday life
 - c. Paintings of period done in the period
 - i. Keep in mind the class of people who had portraits done – where does one research the lower classes? Some painters (Bruegel for example) but still idealized
 - d. Historical accounts written in the period
 - i. not only clothing but what life and attitudes were like
 - e. Sculpture – mass, shape, size of period. Art Nouveau vs. Victoria vs. Greek vs. Deco – a sense of beauty at the time

Remember to think about life vs. ads/fiction/gloss. What works for the play?
Style or reality?

- B. Secondary research – 2nd interpretation (sometimes 3rd!)
 - a. Costume/fashion books
 - b. Newspapers, catalogues with drawings, not photos
 - c. Historical accounts written now rather than in the period
- C. Get a feeling of the period

- a. Architecture
- b. Furniture
- c. Decorative arts
 - i. what was considered beautiful
 - ii. color sense of period
 - iii. scale
- d. customs; ways of life
 - i. magazines – what was important, who was the magazine’s audience

D. Movies of the period

All of this is a first step only to ground self in period, silhouette, etc. After research put your own vision and inspiration over this.